

STRAIT FROM THE



From the Lay Director

Calendar Worthy:

- **Ultreyas:**
 - **September Elections & Ultreya on Saturday, September 20th, 6:45pm at Northland, A Church Distributed (rooms 4206/4207) 530 Dog Track Road Longwood, FL 32750**
 - **Reunion Ultreya Saturday, November 8th**
 - Reunion 4:45p
 - Potluck 6:00p
 - Ultreya 7:00p
- **Fall Women's Weekends (Sendoff/Closing at Prince of Peace):**
 - Oct 16-19

This past year we have been in discussion as a community how to make this ministry bloom where it is planted. We have certainly had some bumps in the road but we should never forget the many miracles that God has provided for us right in front of eyes as people lives have changed.

I am reminded of a story of a woman who lived in a central European village. She was a nurse and devoted her life to caring for her neighbors. She was there at birth and at death; she bound up scratches, bruises and broken bones as well as sat through the interminable nights with those who were seriously ill.

In the course of time she died. She had no

family and so the villagers decided to hold a very lovely funeral for her, but the village priest had to remind them that she could not be buried in the cemetery. For the town was Roman Catholic and the woman had been Protestant. The villagers protested but the priest held firm. It was not easy for him as he too had been nursed by her. Nevertheless the cannons of the church were very clear: she would have to be buried outside the fence.

The day of the funeral arrived and the whole village accompanied her casket to the cemetery, where she was buried outside the fence. That night, a group of the villagers returned to the church and moved the fence.

Sometimes we need to move the fence a little to make certain that no one is left out. Our efforts at New Beginnings are taking small steps to move the fence.

We have Rectors and Rectoras on board for the fall of '08 and the Spring of '09. We will be moving to a new retreat location in the Spring of '09.

Come to the next Ultreya at Northland on **September 20th** and hear all the good news of our New Beginnings.

Blessings,

*Steve Beumer
Lay Director*

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Gladys Dunn

Gladys Dunn just moved into town and decided to visit the church nearest to her new apartment.

She appreciated the pretty sanctuary and the music by the choir, but the ser-

mon went on and on. Worse, it wasn't very interesting. Glancing around, she saw many in the congregation nodding off. Finally it was over.

After the service, she

turned to a still sleepy looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand and said, "I'm Gladys Dunn."

The man replied, "You and me both!"

2008 Secretariat Elections—*Saturday, September 20th, 2008*

Our September Ultreya at Northland will include our Annual Meeting to elect your Secretariat members. According to our bylaws, each Secretariat member will serve a term of two years unless filling a vacant position. Following is a list of positions open this September. If you are interested in any of these positions or would like to nominate someone, please contact anyone on the Secretariat or visit the website.

All positions are for a 2 year term unless otherwise indicated:

Lay Director - chief executive officer of HoF and shall represent HoF to the community and other VdC organizations.

Post Via de Cristo - coordinates the scheduling and function of the Ultreyas and other community activities not directly associated with the weekend retreats.

Extended Palanca - coordinates and communicates with the NLS and other movements on matters relating to Palanca, and receives and sends Palanca gifts and letters.

Communications - responsible for coordinating publicity within the HOF Community, including creation of Strait From the Heart (the HOF newsletter), email to the community, and oversight of HoF web page.

Music – maintains music and/or songbooks, ensures availability at the Ultreyas and weekends, and ensures all copyright and reproduction laws are followed.

Off-site Physical Arrangements (1 YEAR TERM) - responsible for the coordination of all weekend supporting activities that primarily take place at Send-Offs and Closings.

On-site Physical Arrangements (1 YEAR TERM) -

responsible for the coordination of all weekend supporting activities that take place on the retreat site just prior to, during and immediately after each weekend.

Please note, these elections are for the community! Your vote is very important!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 35th Heart of Florida Via de Cristo **Women's** Weekend is COMING THIS FALL (Sendoff and closing at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church)

**Thursday, October 16, 7:00PM
thru Sunday, October 19, 7:00PM**

What will the Via de Cristo weekend do? The weekend will strengthen and renew Christian faiths. Via de Cristo continues to serve, develop and nurture Christian leaders in churches and

environments we all live in.

Visit our website at www.hofvdc.org for other details. Add it to your Favorites! Applications can be also downloaded at the website.

We need your support at the sendoff, serenade, return and **as sponsors more than ever.**

What's a sponsor? Someone who's been on a Via de Cristo weekend, who will provide transportation for their pilgrim, help with the pilgrims

luggage, answer any questions the pilgrims may have before and after the weekend, and uphold them in prayer the whole weekend!

**Make a Friend
Be a Friend
Bring a Friend to Christ!**

Pray for your friend.



How Much Palanca is needed:

- Pillow Palanca = 20 pilgrims
- Rollo Room Palanca = 34 total
- Dining Room Palanca = 50 total

(see page 6 for further instructions)

Palanca for Weekend # 35

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, De Colores!!

I greet you in the name of the Lord.

Please join us in praying for the pilgrims, clergy, sponsors, rector/a and all those involved in coordinating Heart of Florida VDC Women's Weekend #35 on October 16-19, 2008.

Your Palanca offerings through

writing a note, sending a gift, cooking a meal, attending send-off, going to church, singing a song, giving a hug, prayer and fasting are all sacrificial actions.

It's not too soon to consider how you and your reunion group will offer Palanca to the team and Pilgrims of weekend #35.
CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!

Mail Palanca for HOF VdC
Weekend #35 to:

Heart of Florida Via de Cristo
c/o St. John Lutheran Church
1600 South Orlando Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
Attn: Bebs Winters

OR Contact anyone on the Secretariat to make arrangements for pickup.

*Blessings,
Bebs Winters
Local Palanca*

I am not alone



CONGRATULATIONS!
TODAY IS YOUR DAY
TAKE THE DAY OFF
FOR YOU I WILL PRAY

FOR YOU I WILL DO
WHATEVER IT TAKES
TO SHOW YOU GOD'S LOVE
AND NEVERENDING GRACE

I STAND IN THE COLD
WHICH I DON'T NORMALLY DO
FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY
TO GET TO KNOW YOU

WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH
OR MAKES YOUR HEART CRY
YOUR DREAMS AND AMBITIONS
ON WHOM YOU RELY

I KNOW THAT YOU STRUGGLE
I FACE CHALLENGES TOO
BUT ALLOW ME TO SHARE
WHAT I'M LEAD TO DO

I FALL TO MY KNEES
THANK GOD FOR HIS BLESSIN'S
PAIN, TEARS AMD GROWTH
THAT COME WITH EACH LES-
SON

I INVITE HIM TO ENTER
MY HEART AND MY SOUL
WHICH FILLS WHERE I'M EMPTY
AND MAKES ME FEEL WHOLE

THEN PICKS ME BACK UP
TALLER THAN I'VE GROWN
AS A DAILY REMINDER
THAT I'M NOT ALONE

THEN USES THIS VESSEL
AS A MEANS OF CONNECTION
TO THOSE UNAWARE OF HIS
LOVE AND AFFECTION

IT'S MY JOB ON EARTH
TO SPREAD THE "GOOD NEWS"
GOD'S FRIENDSHIP, GOD'S LOVE
ARE THE METHODS I CHOOSE

ALLOW ME TO LOVE YOU
LET ME STAND BY YOUR SIDE
FOR SHARING GOD'S LOVE
IS WHAT KEEPS ME ALIVE

THERE'S NO OTHER PURPOSE
THERE'S NO BETTER WAY
TO SHOW GOD I LOVE HIM
BY MY WORKS EVERYDAY!

~written by Cathedra D. Winston

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Have Bible, Will Travel!

THE ONLY SOLUTION TO A WORLDLY PROBLEM IS A SPIRITUAL SOLUTION

It is a great honor for me to begin my assignment from the Lord as the Spiritual Advisor for Via de Cristo. I look forward to allowing our Lord, Master and Savior Jesus Christ to use me as a conduit to strengthening Christians in service and to bring individuals closer to their God.

The world has created a situation where our dependencies for solutions rely on our senses and our ability to think. Unfortunately, since our problems all originate from Adam's spiritual debacle (read Genesis chapters 3&4) then all our solutions must be spiritual based.

If you take any concern confronting you presently and reduce it to its lowest level, there is a spiritual issue that needs a spiritual solution. The hustle and bustle of today's society is designed not to permit you to have the time to review issues and problems at that level. The world has established solutions for our problems like McDonalds have created happy meals and value meals ("could I please have a number 3 with extra conversation from my spouse"). We have to learn to "BE STILL". Learning to quiet our inner self, so we can hear God speaking to us in that "small still voice", is our goal. To realize that God is not in the whirlwinds of life; nor is He in those things that shake our very foundation; neither is He in the things lost in the fires

of life, but in that "small still voice" that resides within us is what becomes priceless [1King 19:9-13].

Let's remember what Jesus told Martha as she was busy about the world "...*My dear Martha, you are so upset overall these details! There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it – and I won't take it away from her.*" [Luke10:41&42, NLT (New Living Translation)]

"Be Still", and find your spiritual solution to every earthly problem you have, through Jesus Christ.

Be Blessed!
PT (Pastor Ted)



Leaders

Hi! My name is Pam Hoepner and I began my Fourth Day Walk on Heart of Florida Lutheran Cursillo for Women #4 where I sat at the Table of Deborah. I'm also the elected Leaders Secretariat chair.

Over the years I have served as Local and Extended Palanca, Treasurer, and my husband and I served for many years as Physical Arrangements both On-Site and Off-Site. With this history I hope to help the Secretariat understand why some things are done the way they are in our community (not that some

traditions shouldn't be changed) but I also hope to help Heart of Florida grow in new ways to reach more people in our area churches to help them grow as Christian leaders in their churches.

As the Leaders it will be my responsibility to arrange and conduct Rector/Rectora training prior to the team call, conduct team leadership training, update Rector/Rectora and team manuals as needed, store and provide manuals for all team positions, conduct the Sponsors' meeting at weekend send-offs,

set-up and conduct the Next Step workshop, among other duties. In other words, a large portion of my job is the trainer for the Secretariat. If you feel there is a need for training within the Via de Cristo community, please email me at pansyhfl@aol.com, call me at 407-898-4752, or talk with me at an Ultreya.

Shalom,
Pam Hoepner
Leaders Chair

HOW DO I PREPARE PALANCA FOR THE WEEKEND?

Please bag/box and **label** all Palanca as "Pillow Palanca", "Rollo Room", or "Dining Room" (specify the meal time) and write the number of items on the bag. This is very important for counting and for routing purposes. We have forms for Palanca, pick one up at any of the Ultreyas, VdC Mailbox at St John or send-offs.

As you bag and label letter Palanca for the weekend, please separate the pilgrims from the team and place all letters in alphabetical order. This really speeds up the sorting process!



Drop off all Palanca at Prince of Peace the night of send off. If you need more time, there will be a box at the back entrance of St. John for the remainder of each weekend. The last pick up is 5:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The mailbox is located at St John, back parking lot near the stairs at the back entrance. We will make sure to get the Palanca to the right area.

About **Professor Palanca**: it is wonderful to write a short note of encouragement to any or all of the professors or spiritual directors. The mailroom servant will distribute all those notes to each Rollista before her Rollo. So please get all those notes to the mailroom servant on Thursday or before the weekend begins!

People often like to send **special Palanca** to team members that they would like delivered on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night. There will be a box labeled for team Palanca. Place any special team pillow Palanca into the box for delivery. Make sure it is labeled. Remember though, the weekends are about the pilgrims.

Another word about "special" Palanca: while you may want to give a cherished pilgrim-friend a personal piece of Palanca (a book, picture, t-shirt, etc), we cannot give one person something that no one else at another table or in her dorm room is getting. If you would like to give something special to a pilgrim, please do so after the weekend.

If you are sponsoring a pilgrim or know someone who is, please remember that the most important piece of Palanca in their bag comes from their husband, wife, or significant other. We absolutely must have those letters by Saturday night!

Remember that you need to write and label special letters for all pilgrims you are sponsoring. These letters are almost as important as spouse letters.

The **Team rosters and Rollo times** will be posted on the website once the teams begin to meet and the lists are finalized.

The Pilgrim list is a "live" document, subject to change until send-off. Please visit the website at: <http://www.hofvdc.org> and click on the Pre Via De Cristo link to email Lisa Bott for the latest list. The list will also be available at send-off.



Other ways to give Palanca:

Prayer Palanca: 24 hours Prayer Chain (contact Beebs for the sign up sheet)

Food Palanca: Prepared at home

Time Spent in the **Agape Tent**

Help with **Set up and Tear Down**

Serenade on Sunday, October 19th

If you have any further questions about Palanca, please contact any of the Secretariat members found on page 7 of this issue or visit our website at:

<http://www.hofvdc.org> .

Thank you for your contributions to the success Hearth of Florida Via De Cristo Women's Weekend #35!



Time Pyramid & New Beginnings

Dear Precious Brothers & Sisters in Christ: He is alive! He is alive indeed!~ And as he died on the cross he called out to the Father.....Have you considered lately that our God IS a relationship? Father, Son, and Spirit. He is Three in One! He is our Triune God. Relationship is part of His beautiful nature. He created us to have a relationship with Him and with each other. Marriage is even a picture of Jesus' relationship with us. We are His bride! God is all about relationships. If you are not in a spiritual mentoring, encouraging, building up, accountability group, I would encourage you to FIND one! A reunion group is a great start. But perhaps you are already in a small group in your church. That's good too. But be sure it's a group that will encourage your study, piety, and action.

Here's a good exercise our pastor gave us: Find an FDA Food Pyramid and using it as a model, create for yourself a Time Pyramid. At the base may be family and work

(where you spend most of your time.) As you travel up the pyramid, in the smaller spaces may be the time you spend on sports, children's activities, relaxation, family outings, friends, going out, taking classes, volunteering, etc. More than likely, the tiny top of your Time Pyramid will be devoted to religious activity (attending a church service or a small group meeting). Take a look at where you are physically most of the time (at home, at work, at the playground, in the car, at church...) Now, at the bottom of the page, instead of Time Pyramid, re-title this My Ministry Pyramid. What does this picture do to your perspective of ministry? What does it do to your perspective of your time?

Wherever you are is where God calls you to minister, every day, everywhere! We are the church out there in the world. We heard that on our weekends. **Do you remember?** We learned that *"We may be the only Bible that people ever see"* and we learned that we

are called to *"Bloom where we are planted"*.

Be reminded of your new beginning...the day you were confirmed, or the day you were baptized, or the day you asked Jesus into your heart. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17) You had a New Beginning! Live it out in your world. Form relationships for building The Church (universal) as well as for your own maturity in Christ. If you are not currently in any ministry but feel God tugging at your heart to serve in some way, call someone on the Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Secretariat and volunteer some of your time to help as we roll-out our ministry with New Beginnings!

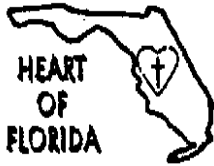
God Loves You, and so do I,
Sandy Boccuzzo
Secretary
Weekend #11



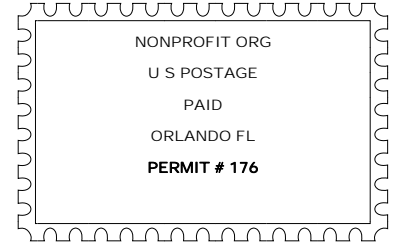
2008 Heart of Florida Secretariat

Lay Director
Leaders
Secretary
Treasurer
Physical Arrangements (On-Site)
Physical Arrangements (Off-Site)
Communications
Pre Via de Cristo
Post Via de Cristo
Extended Palanca
Outreach
Local Palanca
Music
Spiritual Advisor

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Marty Collins (407-381-0317) email: martycollins@comcast.net
Pastor Ted Freeman (407-353-4983)
email: free-em-ministries@earthlink.net

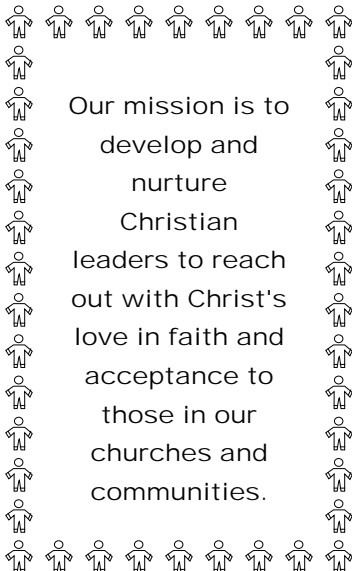


<http://www.hofvdc.org>
Communications@hofvdc.org



Bulk mail is not forwarded or returned so PLEASE email address UPDATES to Heart of Florida Via De Cristo at: Communications@hofvdc.org.

Heart of Florida
Via De Cristo
Mission Statement



Our mission is to develop and nurture Christian leaders to reach out with Christ's love in faith and acceptance to those in our churches and communities.

THE U IN JESUS

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun, God stuck **U** in the name of His Son.

And each time **U** pray, you'll see it's true, You can't spell out Jes**U**s and not include **U**.

Yo**U**'re a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For **U**, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He

died. It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with **U** in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold tr**U**mpet blew, and this word res**U**rrection is spelled with a **U**.

When Jes**U**s left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to

mention.

'Go into the world and tell them it's true That I love them all - Just like I love **U**.'

So many great people are spelled with a **U**, Don't they have a right to know Jes**U**s too?

It all depends now on what **U** will do, He'd like them to know, But it all starts with **U**.

Will **YOU** pass it on?